



## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

July 28, 2006

Dear Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's August 9<sup>th</sup> public Board Meeting will be held in Sacramento at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments office located at 1415 L Street, Suite 300. **Please note the meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm.**

Since our last board meeting in March there have been several new developments regarding the future of the Authority and project.

In early June Senator Florez introduced a resolution (SCR 123) for the creation of 10-member joint Assembly/Senate committee to comprehensively study the benefits of the proposed high-speed train system and will be conducting hearings along the high-speed train route, beginning in the fall and continuing over the next two years.

In mid-June Senate President pro Tem Don Perata, Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, announced the appointment of the Honorable Quentin L. Kopp to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Judge Kopp has an extensive biography including his historic election to the California State Senate as an Independent in 1986. He served Senate District 8 encompassing San Francisco and San Mateo counties for three terms, leaving office in 1998. During his tenure in the California Legislature he was Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and the author of SCA6 and SB1420 the legislative underpinnings of the high-speed rail vision. The legislation directed the study of the feasibility of a high-speed train in California, and created the Authority, which Judge Kopp will now serve.

And in late June Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2006-07 budget which provides \$14.3 million "to begin project implementation". The funding will support the preparation of a project financial plan, project management activities, identification of critical rights-of-way acquisitions and the initiation of detailed project design and related environmental studies. However, bond funding for the project must still be authorized by voters in 2008 (AB 713's enactment has delayed the \$10 billion high-speed rail bond measure from November 2006 to November 2008).

At the August 9<sup>th</sup> public board meeting, the Authority staff will be presenting proposed regulations for the selection process of Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms as required by GC §4525 et. seq. for board review and ratification. Authority staff will be presenting draft Requests for Qualifications for the Project Management contract, and the Preliminary Design /Project-Specific Environmental contracts as well as draft Request for Proposal for the Financing Plan contract, and a draft scope of work for the Visual Simulation contract for board review and approval. Additionally, the board will be given an update on the progress of the "Bay Area to Central Valley HST Program EIR/EIS" as well as the statewide ridership work.

For information on the all of the Authority's work visit the Authority's website located at [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov).

I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento at our Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Morshed".

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director